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Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on
South-South Cooperation
31 July-4 August 1995

PROVISIONAL AGENDA WITH ANNOTATIONS

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting.

2. Election of officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Review of the status of South-South cooperation and the emerging issues.

5. Expanding South-South cooperation: substantive issues and practical modalities.

6. Other business.

7. Adoption of the report.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting, convened pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 49/96 of 19 December 1994, will be opened, on behalf of the Secretary-General, by a senior official of the United Nations.

Item 2. Election of officers

The meeting may wish to elect a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

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Item 3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The meeting will have available five working days, from 31 July to 4 August 1995. At the first (plenary) meeting, on 31 July 1995, a statement will be made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations or his representative. Following the introduction of items 4 and 5 of the provisional agenda and a brief general debate, the meeting may wish to convene in informal session for discussion on item 4 during the rest of Monday, 31 July, and the morning of Tuesday, 1 August 1995. Discussions on item 5 could commence in the afternoon of the same day and conclude on Wednesday, 2 August 1995. The Chairman may wish to introduce draft agreed conclusions in the morning of Thursday, 3 August, and the rest of the day may be devoted to consideration of the Chairman's draft. Thereafter, time may be allowed for the preparation of the draft report to be submitted to the plenary on the afternoon of 4 August 1995.

Item 4. Review of the status of South-South cooperation and the emerging issues

With a view to assisting the meeting in its deliberations on this item, a report has been prepared entitled "The status of South-South cooperation and the emerging issues" (A/AC.246/1). Two other reports relevant to the discussions are being made available. They are the reports of the High-Level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries at its ninth session, held in New York from 30 May to 2 June 1995 (A/50/39). and of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, which was held from 19 to 23 June 1995 (TD/B/42(1)/7 and TD/B/C.N.3 16).

The main report (A/AC.246/1) provides a brief historical background to the evolution of South-South cooperation and traces the changing nature of that cooperation as pursued over the years within the framework of regional economic cooperation and integration arrangements. This analysis concludes with a brief review of the major subregional and regional developments in each of the three developing regions, that is, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The report then attempts a general examination of the content of South-South cooperation on a global scale and a more detailed evaluation of that cooperation in the trade sector.

There then follows a brief assessment of the implications for South-South cooperation of the fundamental changes that have characterized the world economy in recent years. In that connection, the report discusses issues revolving around globalization and liberalization; the creation and expansion of economic and trading blocks built around major centres of economic power and sometimes involving both developed and developing countries; the emergence of new centres of economic growth in East Asia and Latin America; the revival of interest in economic cooperation and integration; the role of the private sector and non-governmental organizations; the results of the Uruguay Round negotiations; and the special needs of Africa.

The report concludes with a short section on the subject of support to South-South cooperation, in which an increased disposition on the part of developed countries to support South-South cooperation initiatives is recognized and the role of the United Nations system is stressed.

Item 5. Expanding South-South cooperation: substantive issues and practical modalities

A report entitled "Expanding South-South cooperation: some suggested issues and modalities" (A/AC.246/2) has been prepared for this item. In addition, documents A/50/39, TD/B/42(1)/7 and TD/B/C.N.3 16, mentioned earlier in connection with item 3, are also relevant to discussions under this item.

The main report (A/AC.246/2) highlights the present agenda for South-South cooperation as contained in the Caracas Programme of Action, the Action Programme for Economic Cooperation of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Initiative of the Group of 15, the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, as well as the recommendations originating in a number of international forums, including the South Commission.

Drawing on the South-South cooperation experience of subregional and regional organizations, the report warns against embarking on schemes of cooperation that are too ambitious in scope. It recognizes the potential for a multilateral approach to South-South cooperation but also sees value in limited initiatives involving groups of countries with common interests.

The report deals at length with the institutional aspects of South-South cooperation at the national, subregional/regional and international levels. It notes the absence of mechanisms at all three levels for the effective implementation of South-South initiatives and makes recommendations in that regard. For illustrative purposes, the report, under the heading "Suggestions for joint action" makes suggestions concerning the approach that might be adopted in developing a programme of cooperation in the interrelated fields of information and communication, trade, services, money and finance, and the social sector.

Finally the report examines the role of developed countries and international organizations in supporting South-South cooperation, including the provision of financial and technical resources.

Item 6. Other business

Item 7. Adoption of the report

The meeting may wish to agree on the form and content of conclusions and/or recommendations that, in accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 49/96, will be transmitted to the Secretary-General for his report to the General Assembly on the state of South-South cooperation.

ANNEX

Provisional work plan

Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on South-South Cooperation

New York, 31 July-4 August 1995

Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday, 31 July	Plenary	Informal session
	Opening of the meeting Election of officers Opening statement Introduction of items 4 and 5 and general debate	Item 4. Status of South-South cooperation and the emerging issues
Tuesday, 1 August	Informal session	Informal session
	Item 4 (continued)	Item 5. Expanding South-South cooperation: substantive issues and practical modalities
Wednesday, 2 August	Informal session	Informal session
	Item 5 (continued)	Item 5 (continued)
Thursday, 3 August	Informal session	Informal session
	Introduction and consideration of draft agreed conclusions	Consideration of draft agreed conclusions (continued)
Friday, 4 August	Informal consultations	Plenary
		Adoption of the report Closing statements